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and is fairly up to its nominal power, giving an amplification of 4,000 with the lowest ocular. It is said to give sufficient light and good definition. Its working properties are little known at present.

RED BLOOD CORPUSCLES. — Mr. Malassez notices a general tendency of these bodies to diminish in number and increase in size in the lower animals. The following figures indicate the estimated number to a cubic millimetre; in the goat, 18,000,000; in the camel, 10,000,000; in man, 4,000,000; in the porpoise, 3,600,000; in birds, 4,000,000 to 1,600,000; in osseous fishes, 2,000,000 to 700,000, and in cartilaginous fishes, 230,000 to 140,000.

NATURE OF MARKINGS. — Dr. Pigott believes the spherules of butterflies' scales to be more difficult of resolution than equally separated lines in Nobert's bands. On the other hand, it has been believed that diatom markings were more easily resolved than Nobert's lines of equal fineness; a difference which, if confirmed, might give some hint as to the nature of the various markings.

MICROSCOPIC TOYS. — Mr. T. Curtiss sent for exhibition at a meeting of the Brighton and Sussex Natural History Society, slides consisting of a variety of figures of flowers, insects and birds, artificially formed of beautifully arranged scales of butterflies and moths. Some of the figures consist of as many as 400 scales, and all were considered wonderfully perfect and beautiful.

THE VALUE OF ILLUMINATION. — Mr. Hogg stated, at a meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society, that with Wenham's new illuminator he resolved *N. rhomboides* very satisfactorily with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  objective made by Andrew Ross twenty-five years ago. Probably this was a  $\frac{1}{5}$  by present nomenclature.

A NEW SOCIETY. — A "Medical Microscopical Society" has been organized in London, under the presidency of Mr. J. Hogg.

## NOTES.

THE daily press has made us familiar with the facts, so far as known, regarding the death of Capt. Hall of the *Polaris*. His ship penetrated two hundred and sixteen miles (Lat.  $82^{\circ} 16'$ ) farther north than Dr. Kane, or in fact any other vessel. Capt. Parry attained a more northern point by means of sledges. Hall

claimed that Kane's Polar sea is a strait fifteen miles wide. He crossed it in a sledge journey, from which he returned to die aboard his ship.

We are sanguine that the Polaris will be found, and that the scientific results will be commensurate with the care taken in the outfit at Washington and the selection of men to conduct observations. It will be remembered that the chief of the scientific corps is Mr. Emil Bessels, a most promising naturalist, author of several works on the embryology of the invertebrates, and of an unpublished memoir on the embryology of insects. Meanwhile we must wait anxiously, perhaps for three or four months, before knowing of the fate of Bessels and his comrades.

DR. E. COUES has been attached to the International British Northern Boundary Survey of the 49th parallel, which takes the field on the first of June.

THE New Albany, Ind., Society of Natural History is doing good work in developing the natural history of Indiana and has several active workers in its ranks. Located in a rich fossiliferous region, also in the locality of several caves and subterranean streams, we look to the members of this society for important additions to our knowledge in these departments, and we are also pleased to note that they are doing much in collecting the stone and bone relics of the former inhabitants of the region, having already made a large and important collection of specimens, as we can testify from a visit of two years ago. The officers of the society for the following year are—*President*, John Sloan; *Vice Presidents*, Charles Hutchinson and F. L. Morse; *Secretary*, W. W. May; *Treasurer*, J. K. Walts; *Librarian*, Frank Spellman; *Curators*, W. A. Clapp, Wm. Borden, S. L. S. Smith, John Williamson, Wm. Clark.

THE Papers on Natural History read at the Washington meeting of the National Academy of Science in April, 1873, were on the following subjects:—Biographical Memoir of Dr. John Torrey, by Dr. Asa Gray; On Reproduction in Progeny of Defects produced by Injury in Parents, by Dr. Charles E. Brown-Sequard; On the Unity of the System of Life in Animals and the true principle of Gradation in the various Animal Types, by Prof. A. Guyot. The following members were elected:—Professor Elias Loomis, Prof. Joseph Lovering, Prof. W. A. Norton, Dr. Theodore Gill, Dr. J. J. Woodward.

WE regret that Professors Marsh and Cope have considered it necessary to carry their controversy to the extent that they have. Wishing to maintain the perfect independence of the NATURALIST in all matters involving scientific criticism, we have allowed both parties to have their full say, but feeling that now the controversy between the authors in question has come to be a personal one and that the NATURALIST is not called upon to devote further space to its consideration, the continuance of the subject will be allowed only in the form of an appendix at the expense of the author.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Preliminary Descriptions of Three New Species of Cetacea from the Coast of California.* (From Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci.) By W. H. Dall. Jan. 29, 1873. 8vo, pp. 2.
- Ninth Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Illinois.* By Newton Bateman. 8vo, pp. 231. 1871-1872.
- Principes de Biologie appliquees a la Medicine.* By Ch. Girard. 12mo, pp. 108. Paris, 1872.
- Schriften des Vereins zur Verbreitung naturwissenschaftlicher Kenntnisse in Wien.* 12mo, pp. 415. With 2 woodcuts. Band xli. Jahrgang, 1871-2. Wien, 1872.
- Bulletin de l'Institut National Genevois.* 8vo. No. 96. Vol. xvii, pp. 1-216, with map. Geneve, 1872.
- Bulletin Mensuel de la Societe d'Acclimatation.* 8vo. Second Series. Tome ix. No. 11. November, 1872. Paris.
- Bulletin Entomologischer Zeitschrift.* 8vo. Jahrgang 16. Parts 2-4. With 3 plates. Berlin, 1872.
- Memoires de la Societe de Physique d'Histoire Naturelle de Geneve.* 4to. Tome xxi. Second Part. With 20 plates. Paris, 1872.
- The Half-yearly Abstract of the Medical Sciences.* Vol. lvi. January, 1873. Philadelphia.
- Chart of Geological Nomenclature intended to express the relation of Minnesota to the great Geological Series of the Earth, and the probable equivalency of some of the names the formations have received in the various States and in Europe.* By N. H. Winchell.
- On the Glacial and Champlain Eras in New England.* 8vo, pp. 16. (From the Am. Jour. Sci. and Arts, Vol. v, Mch., 1873.) By James D. Dana.
- Transactions of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York for the year 1871.* 8vo, pp. 365. Albany, 1871.
- Notes on the Avi-fauna of the Aleutian Islands from Unalashka eastward.* By W. H. Dall. 8vo pp. 11. (From Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci.) San Francisco, 1873.
- Proceedings of the Royal Society.* Vol. xx. Nos. 130-137. 8 pamphls., 8vo. London, 1871-72.
- List of Members of the Royal Society.* 4to, pp. 31. London, Nov. 30, 1871.
- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London.* 4to. Vol. clxi. Part 2. 1871. Vol. clxii. Part 1. 1872. London.
- The Depths of the Sea.* By C. Wyville Thompson. 8vo, pp. 527. Illustrated. Macmillan & Co. New York and London, 1873.
- The Relations of Botany to Agriculture.* By William S. Clark. 8vo, pp. 29. Boston, 1873.
- List of Coleoptera in the Collection of George Dimmock, No. 679 State Street, Springfield, Mass.* 8vo, pp. 39. Springfield, 1873.
- The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine.* London, Feb., Mch., Apl., May, 1873.
- The Scottish Naturalist.* Perth, Jan., 1873.
- Grevillea.* London, January - May, 1873.
- Feuille des Jeunes Naturalistes.* Paris, Feb. 1, 1873.
- The Lens.* Chicago, January, April, 1873.
- Nature.* London, Jan. 30 - May 3, 1873.
- Science Gossip.* London, Feb., Mch., 1873.
- The Field.* London, Feb. 1 - May 10, 1873.
- The Popular Science Monthly.* New York, March - June, 1873.
- The Canadian Entomologist.* London. Vol. v. January, March, 1873.
- Land and Water.* London, Feb. 8 - May 10.
- American Journal of Science and Arts.* New Haven, March - May, 1873.
- Revue Scientifique.* Paris, Feb. 8 - May 10.
- Journal of Botany.* London, Feb. - May, 1873.
- The Academy.* London, Feb. 15 - May 1, 1873.
- Journal of the Franklin Institute.* Philadelphia, March - May, 1873.
- Essex Institute Bulletin.* Salem. Vol. iv. Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 1872; 1 and 2, 1873.
- The Canadian Naturalist and Quarterly Journal of Science.* Montreal. Vol. vii, No. 1.
- Le Naturaliste Canadien.* Quebec. March, April, May, 1873.
- Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club.* New York. March, April, 1873.
- American Journal of Medical Sciences.* Philadelphia, April, 1873.
- Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science.* London. January, April, 1873.
- Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences.* San Francisco. Vol. iv, Part 5.
- Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.* Buffalo. Vol. i, No. 1, 1873.
- Proceedings Academy Natural Sciences.* Philadelphia. Part 1. 1873.
- Transactions of the American Entomological Society.* Philadelphia. Vol. iv. Nos. 1-3.
- The Geological Magazine or Monthly Journal of Geology.* London. Nov., 1872 - May, 1873.
- Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club.* London, Oct., 1872, Jan., Apr., 1873.